



**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD
HELD FEBRUARY 2, 2016, AT REGIONAL DISTRICT OF CENTRAL OKANAGAN,
1450 KLO RD., KELOWNA, B.C.**

PRESENT

Chair Doug Findlater	Regional District Central Okanagan
Vice-chair Juliette Cunningham	Regional District North Okanagan
Director Doug Dirk	Regional District North Okanagan
Alt. Director Macnabb	Regional District North Okanagan
Director Cindy Fortin	Regional District Central Okanagan
Director Tracy Gray	Regional District Central Okanagan
Director Andre Martin	Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen
Director Sue McKortoff	Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen
Director Peter Waterman	Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen
Director Toby Pike	Water Supply Association of BC

REGRETS

Director Rob Birtles	Okanagan Water Stewardship Council
Director Peter Waardenburg	Okanagan Nation Alliance
Nelson Jatel	Water Stewardship Director

OBWB STAFF

Anna Warwick Sears	Executive Director
James Littley	Operations and Grants Manager
Corinne Jackson	Communications Director

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Dr. Sears called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m.

2. ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR

Board Appointments and Elections for 2016

Regional District of North Okanagan

Director Juliette Cunningham
Director Doug Dirk
Director Bob Fleming
Alternates – Catherine Lord, Rick Fairbairn, Mike Macnabb

Regional District of Central Okanagan

Director Doug Findlater
Director Cindy Fortin
Director Tracy Gray
Alternates – James Baker, Wayne Carson, Patty Hanson

Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen

Director Andre Martin
Director Sue McKortoff
Director Peter Waterman

Alternates – Mark Pendergraft, Tom Siddon, Toni Boot

Okanagan Nation Alliance

Director – Peter Waardenburg

Water Supply Association of BC

Director Toby Pike

Okanagan Water Stewardship Council

Director Robert Birtles

Alternate – Brian Guy

Dir. Gray nominated Dir. Findlater as Chair. Seconded by Dir. Pike.

There being no other nominations, Dir. Findlater was declared Chair by acclamation.

Alt. Dir. Macnabb nominated Dir. Cunningham for Vice-Chair. Seconded by Dir. Martin.

There being no other nominations, Dir. Cunningham was declared Vice-Chair by acclamation.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

“THAT the agenda of the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of Feb. 2, 2016 be approved.”

CARRIED

4. DELEGATION

Margaret Bakelaar, RDCO Environmental/Land Use Planner on Regional Floodplain Mapping

Dr. Sears introduced Ms. Bakelaar, noting the RDCO’s floodplain mapping work was supported through an OBWB grant, recognizing that existing maps were outdated and updates were needed to assist future regional planning decisions.

Ms. Bakelaar began her presentation stating that flooding is natural but that its impacts in the Central Okanagan are becoming more extreme with climate change. There are concerns around human safety and property values, concern about water quality, economic impacts, liability, infrastructure, the environment and more. The rising cost of insurance has also resulted in the provincial and federal government pushing for updated mapping, but also because mapping is seen as a tool to help make communities resilient.

The regional district has maps for only a couple of areas, said Ms. Bakelaar, adding that the project includes regional mapping of where the risks are and developing a plan to mitigate and respond. Currently, in Phase 1, a list of flood-prone streams has been developed along with various risks, and plans are underway for Phase 2 which will set priorities to assist in infrastructure planning and help guide emergency planning.

Following her presentation, Ms. Bakelaar responded to questions. Directors noted the need for similar efforts in the North and South Okanagan, suggesting this project could act as a template in these other regions.

5. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

5.1 Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of December 1, 2015 at Regional District of Okanagan Similkameen.

“THAT the minutes of the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of Dec. 1, 2015 at Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen be approved.”

CARRIED

6. STAFF REPORTS

6.1 Executive Director Report

Progress on ONA Protocol Agreement

Dr. Sears provided an update on the creation of a Protocol Agreement, saying a draft has been sent to ONA for review. The intention of the agreement is to assist the OBWB and ONA to work together but makes it clear that meetings are not to be considered consultation.

Engagement on Emergency Program Act

The board voted to follow-up on the province’s request for comments on proposed changes to B.C.’s Emergency Program Act. It was suggested that efforts should be extended from emergency response to emergency preparedness and that additional dollars be added to cover this expanded scope. It was noted that prevention is often less expensive than responding to an unfolding emergency.

“THAT the OBWB provide comments on the Emergency Program Act discussion paper.”

CARRIED

Engagement on Climate Leadership Plan

The board voted to follow-up on the province’s request for comments on its Climate Leadership Plan in relation to adaptation (e.g. update to hazard maps, and investment in sufficient monitoring systems).

“THAT the OBWB provide comments on the Climate Leadership Plan discussion guide.”

CARRIED

Weather Outlook and Okanagan Lake Levels

Dr. Sears updated the board on current weather forecasts suggesting an early, warm spring and below normal precipitation (Feb. to April), with the potential of another dry summer.

“THAT the Executive Director’s Report, dated Jan. 27, 2016, be received.”

CARRIED

6.2 Water Stewardship Director’s Report

Ongoing water projects overview

Dr. Sears provided an update noting the Environmental Flow Needs project and continued efforts to bring back Okanagan wetlands.

“THAT the Water Stewardship Director’s Report, dated Jan. 27, 2016, be received.”

CARRIED

6.3 Operations and Grants Manager Report

Sewage Facilities Assistance (SFA) Grant Program

The board was provided information on an SFA grant application from RDOS to install a sewer line in the Northwest Osoyoos Area.

“THAT the SFA application for the RDOS Northwest Osoyoos Sewer project be

approved.”

CARRIED

Invasive Mussel Update

Mr. Littley gave an update on an Invasive Species Council of BC (ISCBC)–Pacific Northwest Economic Region meeting regarding joint efforts to prevent invasive mussels and a presentation from B.C. government staff including a proposal for eight mandatory, stationary inspection stations for 2016. Directors voted to send a letter to the Province supporting the plan and recommending that it be fully-resourced, and that the letter be cc’ed to valley MLAs, MPs, and critics.

There was further discussion, including a comment that at least one MLA has suggested the mussels are not as big an issue for some lakes. Dr. Sears responded saying the Okanagan is considered at high risk because of its calcium rich waters, however the mussels have been shown to thrive in areas they were not expected to do well in and that it is risky to assume some B.C. lakes are not a concern.

It was suggested that if the OBWB was to enlist support from other groups on this issue, possible groups include Thompson-Okanagan Tourism Assoc., Union of BC Municipalities, BC Fruit Growers Assoc. and Okanagan Nation Alliance.

“THAT the OBWB send a letter of support for the province’s recommended action plan for addressing invasive mussels in 2016 and that it be effectively resourced with appropriate funding and staffing. AND THAT the letter be cc’ed to Min. Polak, Thompson, and Fin. Minister de Jong, local MLAs, MPs and critics.”

CARRIED

Milfoil Update

Mr. Littley provided an update on the milfoil program noting rototilling is underway with extra support provided in Kelowna.

“THAT the Operations and Grants Manager’s Report, dated Jan. 20, 2016, be received.”

CARRIED

6.4 Communications Director Report

Make Water Work (MWW)

Ms. Jackson provided the board with a final report on the Make Water Work 2015 campaign. With commitments of \$2-3,000 from local government and utility partners, matched by the OBWB’s Okanagan WaterWise program, and then leveraged to bring in in-kind support, staff were able to deliver a valley-wide outdoor water conservation initiative worth more than \$188,000, she noted.

Directors were also told a survey is underway of residents who went to the MakeWaterWork.ca website and took the pledge to conserve. The survey will determine who followed through on their pledges and if not, why not. The purpose of the pledgee survey is to help determine the barriers to behavior change to ensure greater conservation success. About 550 surveys were delivered.

Don’t Move A Mussel (DMM)

There has been much interest in helping extend the work of Don’t Move A Mussel, Jackson said, adding a number of requests have come in from various groups asking how to help raise awareness. One such request is from organizers of a national sailing competition to be held in

Kelowna this summer. A number of boats from regions known to have invasive mussels are registered to come. Staff are working with the organizers and provincial staff to help ensure a successful, mussel-free event.

Other Communication Initiatives

Several additional communication efforts are currently underway including plans for UN World Water Day/Canada Water Week (March 21-27), a news conference to be held on Feb. 12, and assistance with the wetlands project.

“THAT the Communications Director’s Report, dated Jan. 27, 2016, be received.”
CARRIED

7. NEW & UNFINISHED BUSINESS

7.1 Updated Signing Authority

An updated signing authority resolution was presented.

“THAT the Signing Authority Resolution be approved as presented.”
CARRIED

7.2 Drought Planning Gap Analysis report

Dr. Sears presented the drought report, providing an overview on the state of drought planning in the Okanagan, adding a recommendation with next steps would be provided at the March board meeting.

There was some discussion by board members, noting their experience with the drought last summer. It was suggested there needs to be better recognition of how the water in the valley is all connected and that even if an area has enough supply, that saving water can assist others, including fish. Continuing to message to residents about what to plant and when to water is also important it was noted. There was also recognition of the need for communities to be better prepared for possible shortages.

“THAT the Drought Planning Gap Analysis report be received.”
CARRIED

7.3 Hullcar Aquifer Source Protection

Dr. Sears provided an overview of the groundwater contamination situation in the Hullcar aquifer and explained that residents of the Steele Springs Waterworks District have asked that OBWB send a letter to Interior Health asking for drinking water protection. The OBWB’s current Multiple use of Watersheds Policy refers to Crown lands but the need to balance all uses in a watershed applies, even though concerns at Hullcar involve private property, she added. It was suggested that a letter be written to the province.

There was lengthy discussion by the board. It was agreed that it is a matter for Interior Health and B.C. Ministry of Environment and that a letter be sent.

“THAT the OBWB write to the MoE and IHA in support of the Steel Springs Waterworks District asking them to investigate and control pollution sources for the Hullcar aquifer.”
CARRIED

8. **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board will be March 1, 2016 at Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen in Penticton.

9. **ADJOURNMENT**

“THAT there being no further business, the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of Feb. 2, 2016 be adjourned at 1:46 p.m.”

CARRIED

Certified Correct:		
Chair		Executive Director